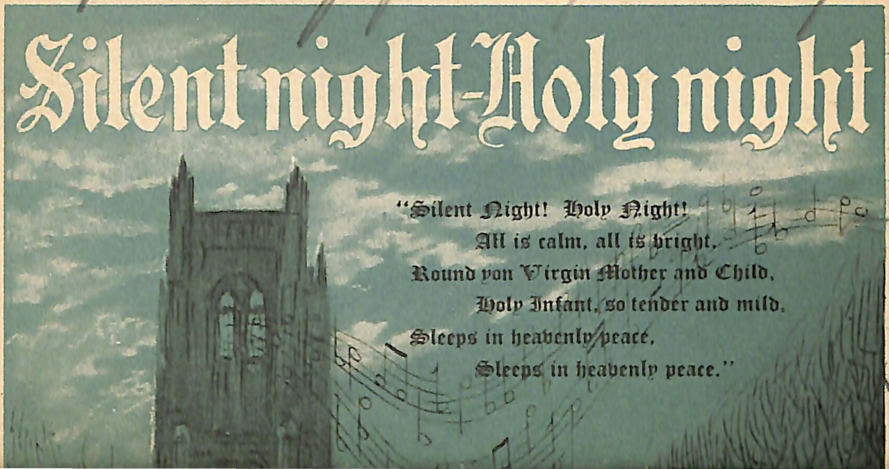
Spiritual Symphonies of Home Life

Silent night-Holy night



Josh 24:15. But as for me & my house we will serve the Lord.

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HOME LIFE.

INTRO. Better Homes Week should be fittingly observed. Gladly does this church dedicate the morning service to its cause. Cheerfully does its minister grant the request that he interpret the spiritual significance of home life to you who have come.

We are born little animals- creatures of the senses only. We are born of the flesh and live by its appetites. Hunger needs no development, its there when we are born. Thirst is there also. The heart throbs and the blood circulates. The whole of animalism is there in the new-born babe. But there is as yet no higher life. Ideas come later. And still later the moral sense and sentiments.

The ideas of kindness, self-denial, politeness and courtesy are not born in the babe, but are introduced later on. And still later come the heroic ideas of fidelity and love and self-sacrifice and faith and hope; and these come with greater difficulty also. So great is the difficulty of developing these moral truths in the soul that when one has experienced them and brot his soul in subjection to them he becomes a new creature from the animal he once was, he is in reality born again.

Where do the fires burn that kindle the human soul into a spiritual being? Where are the forges to be found that shape and the moulds that form the human animal into a spiritual being? Upon what institution rests the largest measure of responsibility for the lifting of the human race up into the higher life odf Christian civilization? These vitals of life, without which there could be no civilization and upon which all government and public safety and welfare depend, originate largely in the Home! In the home the family is reared and by means of the family the race is shaped. Well may we begin our observance of "Better Homes Week" with a consideration of the spiritual significance of home life.

I. Thru Family Affection Love is awakened in the home.

1. The child first learns to love by being loved. Not that we loved God but that He first loved us. Because mother and father first loved us we learned to love.

Build you a new house ever so costly and so grand, your heart goes back to the old home in which you were reared. Furnish your new home with the latest style and best make of furniture, but occupying first place in your affections is perhaps some old rickety, moth eaten chair, or some old ragged burlap, or some other object long since worn out. And these are so precious in our memories because they are associated with our loved ones. Mother sat there, or father sat there, or baby sat there. Some loved one associated with these long-since unused ob jects, who was so much a part of ourselves as to direct the very well-springs of our life purposes and conduct.

All the finer expressions of sentiment that make life worth living- sympathy, kindness, forgiveness, thotful consideration and solicitude for others- are but different expressions of the love awakened within us in the home. They are facets of the one diamond, cut and polished in the home and made to shine with the lustre of home love. The family is love's supreme institution, the home is the family's nesting place, and the heart of the home is mother. All the men in America cannot make a home without the presence in it of a woman to to create its atmosphere. Mother is the very fountain of the world's welfare and happiness. Let no woman who has either heart or brains be guilty of regarding home as a slavery and housework a drudgery. It is true that there is a daily grind to house-work that often becomes irksome- there is a daily grind to every line of occupation for that matter- but oh the privelege of being associated with Almighty God in the work of moulding and lifting the race! Thank God for Home and Mother and Love!

II. Family Loyalty is kindled within the home.

Based upon home love and growing out of it is another of the mighty forces that create the higher life for us and fit us for it. It impels each member of the family to stand up for the rest and bands them all together to maintain the family integrity. As an illustration of such home loyalty let me read from the last issue of The American Magazine this little prize essay. Read.

III. A third Home-force creative of higher living is Faith. This faith is not found in every home, but in all homes where family ideals are at their best.

The statement of the French scientist relative to our modern scientific progress but not a

modern progress in lines of invention and scientific discovery but apparently lacking a corresponding development of our spiritual life.

The reading of this statement made me go back to the colonial and pioneer days of our grandfathers. They did not have modern inventions or scientific knowledge. They had to endure hardships deprivations of which we can scarcely dream- but they knew their Bibles and in every Christian home there was family worship. Their simple, unclouded faith made spiritual giants of these early pioneers.

In comparison to them in their faith what shall I liken us moderns? Walking thru the redwood forests- the old stumps of long since felled trees, and around them the saplings and the underbrush.

Since the days of our Faith-Giants how we have changed. We have imported foerign professors who have introduced pagan philospphy and materialistic conceptions into the minds of our student youth and these boys and girls come home from college spiritually negatived and demagnetized for the rest of their lives. Modern current literature

The modern home has largely given up the job of Bible training; the public school is not permitted to teach it, the college teaches the Bible analytically but not religiously, and the Church School only plays at the task.

The son of a leader in a large city sunday school was asked if his school taught the pupils to memorize scripture. "Naw," said he, "we dont have any of that memory stuff; we study religious education." Shades of our sturdy Christian pioneers, preserve us!

~~With reference to creating Faith within us~~ No school or church or other organization can do for the coming generations what the Xn home can do. Love, loyalty and faith are primarily home forces. And these- Love, Loyalty and Faith-link us to God and lift us into His Kingdom. By means of home ties Christ interpreted the heart of God to the soul of man- the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man - and by means of our training in these home relationships we learn to love God with our whole heart and soul and strength and mind and our fellow men as ourselves.

We have considered the spiritualizing forces within the home, now let us take up briefly the outgoing home influences that make the nations and civilization what they are today.

I. Home hospitality and fellowship
That blesses every home guest

And makes of family groups neighbors and friends.

II. This same home influence awakens a community interest in us all.

The genuine home spirit is missionary, binding the neighborhoods together into a community life. Communit betterment rests upon the homes that constitute it as a community. Our homes should be back of everything that is right and against everything that is wrong. God pity those residents who greedily take advantage of every civic impromement, but contribute nothing to the public welfare.

After the smashing of windows, robbery and looting during the Boston Police strike, the Boston Transcript wrote editorially," Boston is reaping what she has sown. She is ascertaining that among large masses of her population no foundation of religion and character has been laid to which can be spiked a morality that will work." Such foundation of religion and character are laid in the Christian homes. Out of them must go the interest and intelligence that seeks the community's good.

III. In the home is kindled an upbuilding patriotism that supports every national ideal.

The founders of our Republic were men and wom women whose supreme purpose was to make it a Xn nation. The Supreme Court of the U.S. has declared that we are a Xn nation. Harvard, William and Mary and Yale were dedicated to the propagation of Xn righteousness. Our national observance of Thanksgiving and Xmas declares to the world that we are a Xn nation. If what has been thus wrought into our institutions and breathed into our very life is true, then it is equally true that there can be no 100% patriotism except it be Xn patriotism. Deliberate godlessness is treason to the stars and strip stripes. Xty in the homes of America will alone make our democracy safe and secure.

IV. The Home sends forth an outreaching Xn Sympathy that is world-wide.

In the very nature of things the religion of Jesus Christ has to be given away in order to be kept. From the home and thru the church its radiating power goes out unto all inhabitants of the globe until until all peoples of the world have been lifted up into the glorious kingdom of God

~~Xtized~~ Christianized home love and hospitality and neighborliness and friendliness alone will ~~make~~ one our polyglot citizenship ~~from all~~ coming as they have from evry country and clime.

The Home furnishes the ideal relationship between the nations — not resorting to force to settle disputes & differences but to reason & good will & love.